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GO SERV Website:
www.goserv.ca.gov

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News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director**

GO SERV is pleased to welcome Jim Brown to the team. Jim comes to us from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and will serve as the CERT and Special Projects Coordinator.

GO SERV is also very pleased to welcome Sandy May as a key volunteer to the team. Sandy will volunteer full time working on implementing California's Citizen Corps and CERT programs. She has a diverse background having volunteered with the American Red Cross for more than 20 years, beginning as a nurse and then working local and national disaster assignments. Welcome Jim and Sandy!

Funding Update

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed their versions of the 2004 Citizen Corps/CERT appropriation. A conference committee will follow to resolve any differences in the two versions, tentatively scheduled for September.

As reported in our last newsletter, the House-passed version contains \$25M for Citizen Corps and \$20M for CERT—for a total of \$45M. This is a significant increase over the 2002 Supplemental (\$25M total) and 2003 CERT Appropriation (\$20M).

Similarly, the Senate-passed version contains over twice last year's totals as well, with \$50M identified for Citizen Corp & CERT activities. No separation between the programs is contained in the Senate version.

"NOW YOU KNOW!"

As a reminder, the current-year funding for California is \$1.49M for CERT Programs in FY '03; this is less than the combined Citizen Corps and CERT '02 Supplemental of \$1.66M. The application to FEMA for the 2003 program funds has been submitted and is pending FEMA approval.

We previously reported that FEMA was pursuing potentially moving a portion of discretionary funds under the President's FY03 Wartime Supplemental Budget to support Citizen Corps activities—adding to the already approved '03 CERT funds. We have received confirmation from FEMA Region IX and Headquarters that this possibility will not occur. The debate on the 2004 funding eclipsed this option and efforts shifted to concentrate on effective funding for the longer term.

2003 Grant Program Update

Fifty-seven counties expressed interest in participating in the 2003 CERT program. GO SERV plans to release the 2003 CERT Guide for Local Governments in early September. Applicants will have 60 days to prepare and submit their applications. Significant feedback and collaborative design is planned through the State Emergency Volunteer Advisory (SEVAG). A CERT work group has been formed to provide feedback.

Quarterly Report due July 15th, 2003

Several grantees have not completed their quarterly reports and are currently out of compliance. If you have not completed your report, please do so. The on-line report is available through the GOSERV Website at www.goserv.ca.gov

We must collect all state data and report to FEMA.

San Mateo CERT T-T-T a Success

We would like to thank San Mateo County Sheriff Don Horsley, City of San Carlos Police Chief James Granucci, Commander Sandra Spagnoli and Brian Molver from San Mateo County Sheriff's Area Office of Emergency Services for collaborating with us in hosting our third CERT T-T-T course at the San Carlos city library. Counties attending the 3 day course were San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, San Joaquin, Santa Clara and El Dorado. Thanks to all of those who assisted with making this course a success.

GO SERV will be collaborating with others to hold 5 additional courses in the near future, you may click on this link for further detail on the upcoming CERT Train-the-Trainer courses:
<http://www.goserv.ca.gov/cc/cc.asp>.

For your convenience we have included the schedule for the remaining courses.

A photograph of the San Mateo group will be on GO SERV's website soon. Thanks to San Mateo and LA City Fire for their assistance.

Upcoming events

CERT T-T-T Course Schedule for 2003

GO SERV, in partnership with the Los Angeles City Fire Department and several Operational Areas will offer 5 additional CERT T-T-T courses during the calendar year. These are the next in a series of T-T-T courses that will help advance CERT in California. GO SERV acknowledges that there is a high demand for this training. If added resources become available, we will sponsor additional courses.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for each county and the Tribal Nations to participate in one CERT T-T-T course this year, with an

average of 35 participants per course. Based on our previous experience, and in response to your feedback and comments, we will not post the CERT T-T-T course schedule on the GO SERV web site, in hopes that this will cut down on inquiries to the counties and GO SERV by non-affiliated individuals. Invitations will be coordinated with and through the sponsoring Operational Area for each available course.

National Citizens Corp Conference

California was represented by several individuals at the National Citizen Corps Conference in Washington, D.C. on July 29-31. Adam Sutkus and Jim Brown from GO SERV at the state level; Carla Glazebrook from Fresno with Chief of Police Jerry Dyer; also Louis Martinet from Long Beach. Together California had a significant presence at the conference

Several key items emerged from the 3 day event. Web based applications to assist local and state Citizen Corps and CERT efforts are undergoing a major enhancement. Soon several tools will be available for "links" to be made either directly to the federal site or through a state portal to allow for information and database access on Citizen Corps efforts. Breakdowns by State programs will be available, including numbers of state and local Councils, CERT programs, VIPS and NW programs, Medical Reserve Corps locations, etc. GO SERV's public affairs staff are coordinating now with FEMA on these new efforts.

A commitment from national leaders was also evident. Key leaders spoke at the conference, including: Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security; John Bridgeland; National Director for U.S.A. Freedom Corps and Special Assistant to the President; Mike Brown, Undersecretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response (FEMA); as well as others from key private

Upcoming Events

August 12-14
Mendocino
CERT T-T-T

September 17-19
Santa Barbara County
CERT T-T-T

October - TBD
Los Angeles County
CERT T-T-T

October 20-22
San Bernadino County
CERT T-T-T

November 5-7
Humbolt County
CERT T-T-T

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industry partners. All spoke with unwavering support for the citizen-focused programs of Citizen Corps, CERT, and AmeriCorps for homeland security.

National Conference Continued

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August 15-17
Angels Gate Park-San Pedro
CERT Youth Camp
323-526-5015

January 28th-29th, 2004
Governor's Conference on Service,
Volunteerism and Mentoring

Want to share? Call Sandy May to
put your information into the
Newsletter.

Affiliate programs and communication strategies also were a focus of the national gathering.

FEMA is concentrating on outreach to key public, non-profit, and private sectors to assist and strengthen the ongoing Citizen Corps effort. These new "Affiliates" include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Education; they join existing Affiliates such as the American Red Cross, the National Fire Protection Association, National Safety Council National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, the American Radio Relay League, the U.S. Junior Chamber (Jaycees), and others. FEMA also announced that by late summer a major national contract will be finalized with a prominent public relations firm that will allow all programs advanced communication materials to help promote Citizen Corps efforts. "Canned" press

releases, Public Service Announcements, printed materials, logo documents and other tools will be made available.

Breakout sessions were held in several key areas that are important to the programs we are developing in California: Surveying and Messaging; Liability Issues; Grant Guidelines, Reporting and Evaluation; Developing and Maintaining Local Citizen Corps Councils; Awards and Recognition. The dialogue was productive and open on all issues. When summary documents and findings are released, we will send it out widely throughout the state.

It was an excellent gathering and productive work session for everyone involved. As the proceeding from the event are made available we will forward them along.

Governor's Conference Postponed.

The Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring originally scheduled for October 7th & 8th has been postponed. The new date has been selected: January 28th & 29th.

A grantee-only technical training had originally been scheduled to occur immediately after the Governor's conference in October. This technical training for the 2003 CERT grantees will still be held in the fall. We will contact the grantees soon with updated information regarding the new time and venue. For additional updates on the re-scheduled Governor's conference, please visit the GO SERV website at www.goserv.ca.gov

FAQS

Medical Reserve Corps.

Q. Where may I get information on the MRC process?

A. There are ten applications for California currently being considered for the 2003 cycle by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of the Surgeon General. You may contact our state partner at EMSA: Norma Shroeder @ 916.322.4336 x 467 or www.medicalreservecorp.gov/

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